

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 MCT-01 CA-01 /076 W

-----057634 121726Z /53

R 121020Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8235

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 6475

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ELAB, TS

SUBJ: FURTHER DISORDERS IN SFAX

REF: TUNIS 6400

1. SEPT 11 PRESS REPORTED THAT AN ILLEGAL PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION WAS HELD IN SFAX LATE SEPT 9. ACCORDING TO TAP ACCOUNT, ABOUT 20 DEMONSTRATORS MARCHED THROUGH CENTRAL SFAX SHOUTING "CONTRIDICTORY AND TENDENTIOUS" SLOGANS WHILE ONLOOKERS WERE EITHER INDIFFERENT OR EXPRESSED IRRITATION AT DEMONSTRATION. TAP SAID ELEVEN PERSONS WERE ARRESTED "IN FLAGRANTE". THESE ELEVENJN DESCRIBED BY TAP AS MOSTLY YOUNG "WORKERS AND STUDENTS," WERE TRIED IN A REGULAR CRIMINAL COURT THE FOLLOWING DAY IN SFAX AND FOUND GUILTY OF HOLDING AN ILLEGAL DEMONSTRATION, DISTURBING PUBLIC ORDER AND SHOUTING SLOGANS HOSTILE TO THE REGIME AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS. THEY WERE SENTENCED TO PRISON TERMS OF 2 TO 3 YEARS.

2. WE HAVE BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT DEMONSTRATION ERUPTED AFTER (BUT NOT DIRECTLY FROM) A LARGE MEETING
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HELD AT UGTT REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN SFAX ON EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 9. SPEAKERS AT MEETING MOSTLY CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO CONTROL INFLATION AND SPECULATION. DEMONSTRATORS REPORTEDLY NUMBERED ABOUT 200 AND MARCHED THROUGH CENTRAL SFAX WITHOUT RESISTANCE FOR AN HOUR. THEY SHOUTED SLOGANS AGAINST PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA AND IN FAVOR OF MOHAMED MASMOUDI AND AHMED BEN SALAH.

ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, THE POLICE ARRESTED THE ELEVEN PERSONS AT THEIR HOMES, NOT IN THE ACT, AS TAP CLAIMED.

3. THIS DEMONSTRATION APPEARS TO HAVE USED THE UGTT MEETING AS A JUMPING OFF POINT, BUT REPORTED PRO-BEN SALAH SLOGANS SUGGEST THAT IT DID NOT HAVE OFFICIAL UGTT SUPPORT. THE SWIFT JUSTICE ADMINISTERED TO SUPPOSED RING LEADERS INDICATES THAT GOT IS SERVING NOTICE ON POTENTIAL TROUBLEMAKERS THAT FURTHER DISORDERS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AS THE SFAX CAFE INCIDENTS WERE LAST WEEK. THOSE DISORDERS, WHICH WERE OPENLY SPONSORED BY THE LOCAL UGTT LEADERSHIP, HAVE NOT YET RESULTED IN ANY CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.
MULCAHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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SAS ID: 1302444
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER DISORDERS IN SFAX
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ELAB, TS
To: STATE
Type: TE
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